

Application No. 10/601,927
Amendment dated May 25, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 27, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-22 and 24 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 15, and 24 are allowed. Accordingly, claims 13 and 16-22 are at issue.

Initially, the indication that claims 1-3, 5-12, 15 and 24 are allowed and that claim 18 recites allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Accordingly, claim 18 is rewritten in independent form to recite the limitations of intervening claim 17 and base claim 13 so that claim 18 should now be in condition for allowance.

In addition, applicant, by way of their undersigned attorney, wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview in connection with the subject application.

Claims 13, 16, 17, and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,007,090 to Hosono, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,832,780 to Amamori.

The rejection, as it may apply to the claims presented herein, is respectfully traversed.

As discussed with the Examiner, both of the rejected independent claims, i.e. claims 13 and 19, are amended herein to recite that the direction control member is generally aligned over and spaced upwardly from the retainer to extend thereover upon inflation of the airbag. This limitation is nowhere found in the cited art. In particular, of the cited art only the Amamori airbag 1 has a member 6 that is relevant to the recited direction control member. However, as previously discussed with respect to the recited inflation control device of allowed claim 1, the internal member 6 is offset toward the occupant's side of the airbag from the retainer 10. Thus, as acknowledged in the prior Action, the recitation regarding the direction control member being generally aligned over and spaced upwardly from the retainer to extend thereover upon airbag inflation is not disclosed or suggested by the relied

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upon art. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 13, and claims 16 and 17 which depend therefrom, and claim 19, and claims 20-22 which depend therefrom, are allowable over the relied upon art.

Based on the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 13 and 16-22 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By



Stephen S. Favakeh
Registration No. 36,798

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120 South LaSalle Street
Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3406
Telephone 312.577.7000
Facsimile 312.577.7007